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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,957	11/20/2003	Shiva P. Singeetham	2065.001900	9015

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EXAMINER	
DUNWOODY, AARON M	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3679	

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/717,957	SINGEETHAM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Aaron M. Dunwoody	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 November 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-69* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-69* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/25/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

HL

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) as follows:

An application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence(s) of the specification or in an application data sheet by identifying the prior application by application number (37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) and (a)(5)). If the prior application is a non-provisional application, the specific reference must also include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) between the applications except when the reference is to a prior application of a CPA assigned the same application number.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed 2/25/2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 18, 19 and 57 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 1 and 18, change from "segments at at least" to "segments at least".

Claim 19 change from "engaged at at least" to "engaged at least".

Claim 57 change from "component at at least" to "component at least".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cameron brochure.

In regards to claim 1, Cameron brochure discloses a connector, comprising:

a first end adapted to be coupled to a first component;

a plurality of locking segments that, when actuated, are adapted to secure the first component to a second component; and

a locking mandrel that, when actuated, is adapted to engage each of the plurality of locking segments at least three discrete, spaced apart engagement areas.

In regards to claim 2, Cameron brochure discloses at least one of the engagement areas being a substantially flat engagement area defined by the engagement of substantially flat surfaces.

In regards to claim 3, Cameron brochure discloses all of the engagement areas being substantially flat engagement areas defined by the engagement of substantially flat surfaces.

In regards to claim 4, Cameron brochure discloses at least one of the engagement areas being a tapered engagement area defined by the engagement of tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 5, Cameron brochure discloses all of the engagement areas being tapered engagement areas defined by the engagement of tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 6, Cameron brochure discloses the first end being threadingly coupled to the first component.

In regards to claim 7, Cameron brochure discloses the first component being comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 8, Cameron brochure discloses the second component being comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 9, Cameron brochure discloses at least one indicator rod that being operatively coupled to the locking mandrel and adapted to indicate a position of the locking mandrel.

In regards to claim 10, Cameron brochure discloses each of the plurality of locking segments comprises:

a first primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a first surface on the first component; and

a second primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a second surface on the second component.

In regards to claim 11, Cameron brochure discloses each of the plurality of locking segments further comprises:

a first secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a first secondary shoulder on the first component; and

a second secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a second secondary shoulder on the second component.

In regards to claim 12, Cameron brochure discloses the first primary locking shoulder and the first surface on the first component being tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 13, Cameron brochure discloses the second primary locking shoulder and the second surface on the second component being tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 14, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel comprises a plurality of recesses, each of which is adapted to receive a protrusion on the locking segments when the locking segments are in a disengaged position.

In regards to claim 15, Cameron brochure discloses each of the locking segments is comprised of a downwardly facing surface that is adapted to engage an upwardly facing surface on the locking mandrel when the locking mandrel is actuated to disengage the connector.

In regards to claim 16, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel is operatively coupled to a primary piston.

In regards to claim 17, Cameron brochure discloses a secondary release piston positioned below the primary piston, the secondary release piston adapted to, when actuated, cause the primary piston to move.

In regards to claim 18, Cameron brochure discloses a connector, comprising:

a first end adapted to be coupled to a first component;

a plurality of locking segments that, when actuated, are adapted to secure the first component to a second component; and

a locking mandrel that, when actuated, is adapted to engage each of the plurality of locking segments at least two discrete, spaced apart substantially flat engagement areas.

In regards to claim 19, Cameron brochure discloses the connector is engaged at least three discrete, spaced apart substantially flat engagement areas.

In regards to claim 20, Cameron brochure discloses the first end is threadingly coupled to the first component.

In regards to claim 21, Cameron brochure discloses the first component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 22, Cameron brochure discloses the second component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 23, Cameron brochure discloses at least one indicator rod that is operatively coupled to the locking mandrel and adapted to indicate a position of the locking mandrel.

In regards to claim 24, Cameron brochure discloses each of the plurality of locking segments comprises:

a first primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a first surface on the first component; and

a second primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a second surface on the second component.

In regards to claim 25, Cameron brochure discloses each of the plurality of locking segments further comprises:

a first secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a first secondary shoulder on the first component; and

a second secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a second secondary shoulder on the second component.

In regards to claim 26, Cameron brochure discloses the first primary locking shoulder and the first surface on the first component are tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 27, Cameron brochure discloses the second primary locking shoulder and the second surface on the second component are tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 28, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel comprises a plurality of recesses, each of which is adapted to receive a protrusion on the locking segments when the locking segments are in a disengaged position.

In regards to claim 29, Cameron brochure discloses each of the locking segments is comprised of a downwardly facing surface that is adapted to engage an upwardly facing surface on the locking mandrel when the locking mandrel is actuated to disengage the connector.

In regards to claim 30, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel is operatively coupled to a primary piston.

In regards to claim 31, Cameron brochure discloses a secondary release piston positioned below the primary piston, the secondary release piston adapted to, when actuated, cause the primary piston to move.

In regards to claim 32, Cameron brochure discloses a connector, comprising:

a first end adapted to be coupled to a first component;

a plurality of locking segments that, when actuated, are adapted to secure the first component to a second component; and

a locking mandrel that, when actuated, is adapted to engage each of the plurality of locking segments at three discrete, spaced apart, substantially flat engagement areas.

In regards to claim 33, Cameron brochure discloses the first end is threadingly coupled to the first component.

In regards to claim 34, Cameron brochure discloses the first component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 35, Cameron brochure discloses the second component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 36, Cameron brochure discloses at least one connector rod that is operatively coupled to the locking mandrel and adapted to indicate a position of the locking mandrel.

In regards to claim 37, Cameron brochure discloses each of the plurality of locking segments comprises:

a first primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a first surface on the first component; and

a second primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a second surface on the second component.

In regards to claim 38, Cameron brochure discloses at least one of the substantially flat areas is axially positioned between the first and second primary shoulders and laterally offset therefrom.

In regards to claim 39, Cameron brochure discloses each of the plurality of locking segments further comprises:

a first secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a first secondary shoulder on the first component; and

a second secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a second secondary shoulder on the second component.

In regards to claim 40, Cameron brochure discloses the first primary locking shoulder and the first surface on the first component are tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 41, Cameron brochure discloses the second primary locking shoulder and the second surface on the second component are tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 42, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel comprises a plurality of recesses, each of which is adapted to receive a protrusion on the locking segments when the locking segments are in a disengaged position.

In regards to claim 43, Cameron brochure discloses each of the locking segments is comprised of a downwardly facing surface that is adapted to engage an upwardly facing surface on the locking mandrel when the locking mandrel is actuated to disengage the connector.

In regards to claim 44, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel is operatively coupled to a primary piston.

In regards to claim 45, Cameron brochure discloses a secondary release piston positioned below the primary piston, the secondary release piston adapted to, when actuated, cause the primary piston to move.

In regards to claim 46, Cameron brochure discloses a connector, comprising:

a first end adapted to be coupled to a first component;

a plurality of locking segments that, when actuated, are adapted to secure the first component to a second component, wherein each of the plurality of locking segments comprises:

a first primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a first surface on the first component, and

a second primary locking shoulder that is adapted to engage a second surface on the second component; and

a locking mandrel that, when actuated, is adapted to engage each of the plurality of locking segments at three discrete, spaced apart, substantially flat engagement areas.

In regards to claim 47, Cameron brochure discloses the first end is threadingly coupled to the first component.

In regards to claim 48, Cameron brochure discloses the first component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 49, Cameron brochure discloses the second component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 50, Cameron brochure discloses at least one connector rod that is operatively coupled to the locking mandrel and adapted to indicate a position of the locking mandrel.

In regards to claim 51, Cameron brochure discloses of the plurality of locking segments further comprises:

a first secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a first secondary shoulder on the first component; and

a second secondary shoulder on the locking segment that is adapted to engage a second secondary shoulder on the second component.

In regards to claim 52, Cameron brochure discloses the first primary locking shoulder and the first surface on the first component are tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 53, Cameron brochure discloses the second primary locking shoulder and the second surface on the second component are tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 54, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel comprises a plurality of recesses, each of which is adapted to receive a protrusion on the locking segments when the locking segments are in a disengaged position.

In regards to claim 55, Cameron brochure discloses each of the locking segments is comprised of a downwardly facing surface that is adapted to engage an upwardly facing surface on the locking mandrel when the locking mandrel is actuated to disengage the connector.

In regards to claim 56, Cameron brochure discloses the locking mandrel is operatively coupled to a primary piston.

In regards to claim 57, Cameron brochure discloses a connector, comprising:

a first end adapted to be coupled to a first component;

a plurality of means for securing the first component to a second component; and

means for engaging each of the means for securing the first component to the second component at least three discrete, spaced apart engagement areas.

In regards to claim 58, Cameron brochure discloses the plurality of means for securing the first component to the second component comprises a plurality of locking segments, each of which are adapted to, when actuated, engage the first and second components.

In regards to claim 59, Cameron brochure discloses the means for engaging each of the means for securing the first component to the second component comprises a locking mandrel.

In regards to claim 60, Cameron brochure discloses a means for actuating the means for engaging each of the plurality of securing means.

In regards to claim 61, Cameron brochure discloses the means for actuating the means for engaging comprises a piston operatively coupled to the means for engaging.

In regards to claim 62, Cameron brochure discloses a secondary release means for disengaging the means for engaging each of the means for securing the first component to the second component.

In regards to claim 63, Cameron brochure discloses the secondary release means comprises a piston.

In regards to claim 64, Cameron brochure discloses at least one of the engagement areas is a substantially flat engagement area defined by the engagement of substantially flat surfaces.

In regards to claim 65, Cameron brochure discloses all of the engagement areas are substantially flat engagement areas defined by the engagement of substantially flat surfaces.

In regards to claim 66, Cameron brochure discloses at least one of the engagement areas is a tapered engagement area defined by the engagement of tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 67, Cameron brochure discloses all of the engagement areas are tapered engagement areas defined by the engagement of tapered surfaces.

In regards to claim 68, Cameron brochure discloses the first component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

In regards to claim 69, Cameron brochure discloses the second component is comprised of at least one of a blowout preventer, a riser, a production tree, a tubing head and a running tool.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it illustrates the inventive concept of the invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Aaron M Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

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